

CLAIM LISTING

1. (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

a sensor;

a transport mechanism to move the tray past the sensor to scan the sub-patterns; and

control logic operable to communicate with the sensor to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

2. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a housing and wherein the sensor is coupled to the housing such that the sensor is held stationary relative to the housing; and

the transport mechanism is coupled to the housing and the tray..

3. (previously presented) A media source, comprising:

a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

a transport mechanism operable to move the tray between a first position in

which the media stack can be loaded onto the tray and a second position in which a sheet from the media stack loaded onto the tray can be fed into a print path of an imaging device;

a sensor positioned so that it can scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first and second positions; and

control logic operable to communicate with the sensor to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

4. (original) The media source of Claim 3, further comprising a support holding the sensor stationary relative to the motion of the tray caused by the transport mechanism.

5. (original) The media source of Claim 3, wherein the tray, the transport mechanism, and the sensor are components of the imaging device.

6. (previously presented) A media source, comprising:

a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

means for moving the tray between a first position and a second position;

means for scanning the sub-patterns as the tray is moved between the first position and the second position; and

a means for deciphering the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

7. (original) The media source of Claim 6, wherein:

the media stack can be loaded onto the tray when the tray is in the first position;

and

a sheet from the media stack can be fed into a print path of an imaging device when the tray is in the second position.

8. (previously presented) The media source of Claim 6, wherein the means for scanning include means for scanning the at least one side of the media stack as the tray is moved between the first position and the second position.

9. (previously presented) A data identification system, comprising:

a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

a transport mechanism operable to move the tray between a first position and a second position;

a sensor positioned to scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first position and the second position; and

logic coupled to the sensor and operable to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

10. (previously presented) The data identification system of Claim 9, wherein:

the media stack can be loaded onto the tray when the tray is in the first position;

and

a sheet from the media stack can be fed into a print path of an imaging device when the tray is in the second position.

11. (original) The data identification system of Claim 9, further comprising a support holding the sensor stationary relative to the motion of the tray caused by the transport mechanism.

12. (previously presented) The data identification system of Claim 9, wherein each sub-pattern encodes a reference and the control logic is operable to retrieve, for each reference, an entry in a look-up table associated with the reference, the entry including the imaging data for a given sub-pattern.

13. (previously presented) The data identification system of Claim 9, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes parameter settings for a corresponding subset of sheets, and the control logic is operable to decipher the given sub-pattern to identify the parameter settings.

14. (previously presented) The data identification system of Claim 9, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes a media type for a corresponding subset of sheets, and the control logic is operable to decipher the given sub-pattern to identify the media type.

15. (previously presented) The data identification system of Claim 14, wherein the control logic is operable to select parameter settings for the corresponding subset of sheets according to the media type.

16. (original) The data identification system of Claim 9, wherein the tray, the transport mechanism, the sensor, and the control logic are components of an imaging device.

17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) The data identification system of Claim 9, wherein the imaging data for each sub-pattern includes an expected number of sheets of media in a corresponding subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is imprinted, and the control logic is operable to decipher the sub-patterns to identify the expected number of sheets in the media stack.

19. (previously presented) An imaging device, comprising:
a print engine operable to form an image on a sheet of media;
a media source operable to supply a media stack, the media source including:
a tray for holding the media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

a transport mechanism operable to move the tray between a first position and a second position;

a sensor positioned to scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first position and the second position;

a transfer mechanism operable to transfer sheets of media from the media source to the print engine;

control logic in communication with the media source, the print engine, and the transfer mechanism, the control logic operable to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack and to control the operation of the print engine with respect to each subset of sheets according to the imaging data for that subset of sheets.

20. (previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 19, wherein:
the media stack can be loaded onto the tray when the tray is in the first position;

and

a sheet from the media stack can be supplied to the print engine when the tray is in the second position.

21. (previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 19, further comprising a user interface in communication with the control logic and wherein the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for one or more of the subsets of sheets.

22. (previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 21, wherein the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to generate a display that includes user selectable options corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for one or more of the subsets of sheets.

23. (previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 19, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes imaging parameter settings, the imaging device further comprising a user interface in communication with the control logic and capable of displaying information to a user and wherein the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to display information corresponding to the imaging parameter settings the subset of sheets on which the given sub-pattern is imprinted.

24. (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 19, wherein the imaging data for each sub-pattern includes an expected number of sheets of media in a corresponding subset of sheets on which the pattern is imprinted, the imaging device further comprising a user interface in communication with the control logic and wherein the control logic is further operable to cause the user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the expected number of sheets in the media stack.

26. (previously presented) An imaging device, comprising:

- a print engine operable to form an image on a sheet of media;
- a first media source operable to supply a first media stack, the first media source including:
 - a first tray for holding the first media stack, the first media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a first pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the first pattern including a plurality of first sub-patterns, each first sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the first media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the first sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets in the first media stack identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;
 - a first transport mechanism operable to move the first tray between a first position and a second position;
 - a first sensor positioned to scan the first sub-patterns as the first transport mechanism moves the first tray between the first position and the second position;
- a second media source operable to supply a second media stack, the second media source including:
 - a second tray for holding the second media stack, the second media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a second pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the second pattern including a plurality of second sub-patterns, each second sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the second media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the second sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets in the second media stack identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;
 - a second transport mechanism operable to move the second tray between a third position and a fourth position;
 - a second sensor positioned to scan the second sub-patterns as the second transport mechanism moves the second tray between the third position and the fourth

position;

a transfer mechanism operable to transfer sheets of media from the first and second media sources to the print engine;

control logic in communication with the first and second media sources, the print engine, and the transfer mechanism, the control logic operable to decipher the first and second sub-patterns to identify imaging data for each of the first subsets of sheets in the first media stack and second media data for each of the second subsets of sheets in the second media stack and to control the operation of the transfer mechanism and to control the operation of the print engine so that the first imaging data for a given one of the subsets of sheets in the first media stack is used when a media sheet from that given subset of sheets from the first media stack is transferred from the first media source and the second imaging data for a given one of the subsets of sheets in the second media stack is used when a media sheet from that given subset of sheets from the second media stack is transferred from the second media source.

27. (previously presented) The image forming device of Claim 26, further comprising a user interface in communication with the control logic, wherein the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for the subsets of sheets in the first and second media stacks.

28. (previously presented) A method comprising:

providing a tray for holding a media, the tray being moveable between a first position and a second position, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

moving the tray between the first position and the second position;
scanning the sub-patterns as the tray is moved between the first position and the second position; and
deciphering the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

29. (original) The method of Claim 28, wherein moving includes moving the tray between a first position in which the media stack can be loaded onto the tray and a second position in which a sheet from the media stack can be fed into a print path of an imaging device.

30. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein scanning comprises scanning the sub-patterns using a sensor whose position is held stationary relative to the motion of the tray.

31. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein each sub-pattern encodes a reference and wherein deciphering comprises retrieving, for each reference, an entry in a look-up table associated with the reference, the entry including the imaging data for a given sub-pattern.

32. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes imaging parameter settings for a corresponding subset of sheets and deciphering comprises deciphering the given sub-pattern to identify the imaging parameter settings.

33. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes a media type for a corresponding subset of sheets and deciphering comprises deciphering the given sub-pattern to identify the media type.

34. (previously presented) The method of Claim 33, further comprising selecting

imaging parameter settings for the corresponding subset of sheets according to the media type.

35. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28, further comprising causing a user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for a given subset of sheets.

36. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28, further comprising, identifying a sheet as being a sheet retrieved from a particular subset of sheets of the media stack and forming an image on the sheet according to the imaging data for that subset of sheets.

37. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein a given sub-pattern formed on a particular subset of media sheets encodes information corresponding to first imaging data, the method further comprising:

identifying a first sheet as being a sheet retrieved from the particular subset of sheets in media stack and instructing the formation of an image on the sheet according to the first imaging data; and

identifying a second sheet as not being a sheet retrieved from the particular subset of sheets in the media stack and instructing the formation of an image on the second sheet according to second imaging data different from the first imaging data.

38. (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the imaging data for each given subset of sheets includes an expected number of sheets in that subset, and deciphering comprises deciphering the sub-patterns to identify an expected number of sheets in the media stack.

40. (previously presented) A computer readable medium having instructions for:

directing a transport mechanism to move a tray between a first position and a second position;

causing a sensor to scan sub-patterns formed on a side of the media stack as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first position and the second position, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset; and

deciphering the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

41. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 40, wherein each sub-pattern encodes a reference and the instructions for deciphering include instructions for retrieving, for each reference, an entry in a look-up table associated with the reference, the entry including the imaging data for a given sub-pattern.

42. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 40, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes imaging parameter settings for a corresponding subset of sheets, and the instructions for deciphering include instructions for deciphering the given sub-pattern to identify the imaging parameter settings.

43. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 40, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes a media type for a corresponding subset of sheets, and the instructions for deciphering include instructions for deciphering the given sub-pattern to identify the media type.

44. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 43, having further instructions for selecting imaging parameter settings for the corresponding subset of sheets according to the media type.

45. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 40, having further instructions for causing a user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for a particular subset of sheets.

46. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 40, having further instructions for identifying a sheet as being a sheet retrieved from a particular subset of sheets in the media stack and instructing the formation of an image on the sheet according to the imaging data for that particular subset of sheets.

47. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 40, wherein a particular sub-pattern encodes information corresponding to first imaging data for a corresponding subset of sheets, the medium having further instructions for:

identifying a first sheet as being a sheet retrieved from the particular subset of sheets in the media stack and instructing the formation of an image on the first sheet according to the first imaging data; and

identifying a second sheet as not being a sheet retrieved from the particular subset of sheets in the media stack and instructing the formation of an image on the second sheet according to second imaging data different from the first imaging data.

48. (cancelled).

49. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 40, wherein the imaging data for each sub-pattern includes an expected number of sheets on which the given sub-pattern is imprinted, and the instructions for deciphering include instructions for deciphering the sub-patterns to identify an expected number of sheets in the media stack.